[The Raja of Panagal] [5th February 1924

"It has been said that the Government should in these matters consult the local bodies. This is a matter of a purely technical nature and the Government are generally guided in such matters by the opinions of experts. If it is not a matter of purely technical nature, Government would have welcomed the suggestion to consult the local bodies. But in the present case I do not think Government would do well to take the advice of local bodies against that of the experts."

The motion was put and carried.

XV

NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Mr. President, I have the honour to move :

> *That with reference to G.O. No. 55 Ry., dated 10th December 1923, this Council do accept the invitation to nominate two members of the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and request hon. the President to make such arrangements as he deems fit for enabling the Council to make its selection.*

" The circumstances under which I make this motion are clearly set out in the Government Order to which reference is made and which has already been placed on the table of this House. At the instance of the Railway Board, the various Railway Companies in India have decided to set up local advisory councils to advise the Agent on such details of railway management as may be referred to them. The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway has decided to appoint an advisory committee of ten of whom one member has been elected by the Corporation of Madras, one by the Chamber of Commerce, one by the South Indian Chamber of Commerce and one by the Indian Passengers' Association, while there are also members to represent the Government of Bombay, the Government of Mysore and the Government of Madras. To complete the committee the Agent has intimated that he will be glad to have two Members of the Legislative Council of the Government of Madras to be appointed by the Government. The Government on the other hand consider it very much better, that while the nomination might nominally be in their hands, the selection should be made by this Council. Temporarily, during the last few months, these places have been filled by two Members of the last Council who were nominated by the Government as the Council was not at that time sitting. We now take the earliest opportunity of asking the Council to accept the invitation and select two of its Members. If the Council sees fit to adopt that proposal I have to request you, Mr. President, to make such arrangements as you deem fit for enabling the Council to make its selection."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I second it ".

The motion was put and carried.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It remains for me to lay down the method by which the election shall be held. I would suggest that hon. Members hand in nominations to the Secretary before 5 p.m. to-day. Ballot papers will be distributed to them at any convenient time to-morrow and an election will then be held. The election will be by the ordinary method—not by the single transferable vote."